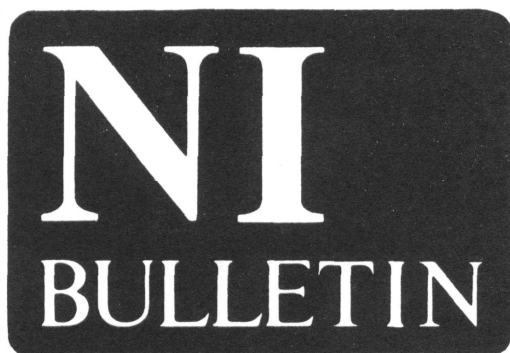


# 40 Years of service to numismatics

August 2004



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# INSIDE N.I.

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Applications for Membership:** The following person has applied for membership. If no written objections are received by October 1, 2004, the membership will become effective on that date.

August G. Blume, 2511 Kerry Lane, Charlottesville, Va. 22901  
(Russian Medals)

## DONATIONS REPORT

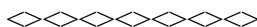
<u>Name</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Preference of Use</u>
August G. Blume	\$50.00	General Fund

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Thanks to everyone who responded to my request for articles and fillers, but as you know, many more are needed to finish out the year. While the September and October BULLETINS each have some articles already, more short articles and fillers are needed.

In effort to improve the BULLETIN, I would like for members to let me know how they think the BULLETIN could be improved, and in what areas of numismatics they would like see articles. A list of areas of interest can be published, and perhaps some members will be able to submit articles in the indicated areas of interest.



Rich King Croesus of Lydians in Asia Minor issued the first money of gold - an oblong piece - in the 6th century. Soon the Greeks began minting money in the shape of discs, striking them with detailed high relief. Romans introduced the familiar serrated edges of today's coins as a way to discourage the practice of shaving off thin slices.

## IN HIS MEMORY: JACK LEWIS, 1918-2004

For the second time in a little over a month the Dallas area family of Numismatics International has suffered an irreplaceable loss. Jack Lewis has died. Jack passed away on March 11, after suffering a heart attack while in the hospital for treatment of heart problems. Jack was 86.

Jack was well known to many of you because he had been a major part of NI for 40 years; he was not just a charter member of NI, he was also one of its founding fathers. He constantly contributed his time and expertise to help guide a new, small, and struggling local coin club and develops it into an international society with an outstanding record of service to its members. At one time or another he had held almost every office and had served on almost every committee that we had. Much of the correspondence that NI had with members here and abroad passed through Jack's hands.

Many of the phone conversations that you had with NI were actually with Jack. He was tireless in his work for all of us.



Jack loved NI, and until just a few weeks before his passing he was present at virtually every meeting and contributed to every discussion leading to the important decisions we have to make on the behalf of individual members and the organization as a whole. NI could not have become what it is today if it had not been for Jack Lewis.

Memories of Jack have been shared with us by NI members from New Hampshire to California. One member has mentioned that he entertained Jack in his home many years ago and that he was able to pay part of his way through college because of Jack's purchase of a very large number of coins from him at a time when the collecting public at large was not much interested in his area of numismatics. Another indicated his pleasure at being able to talk on the phone with Jack over a period of many years. Other members have told us of all the things Jack donated to NI: gifts of cash, books, coins, and, of course, huge amounts of his time. I want to mention my pleasure at being able to visit with him in his home many times over a period so long that I cannot remember exactly when the visits began. At NI we meet once each month in the homes of members. These times are when we really get to know each other best. Jack and his wife, Ann, were gracious host and hostess for the board meetings many times, and it is with great regret that we acknowledge that those good times can be no more. We want Ann to know how much we are aware of what she has lost and how much all of us are aware of what we will be missing in the future.

With Jack's presence gone now, our local educational meetings will never be the same. In particular, our local business meetings can never be the same because Jack was the cog that kept everything turning; our board of governors depended heavily on

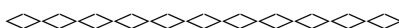
Jack's long years of experience to provide the answers to solve the problems that always arrive with too much frequency. He will be missed in so many ways that we cannot begin to indicate all of them. At NI we live now in a darker time.

How will we try to honor Jack's memory in formal, lasting ways? We are discussing this now, and we promise that there will be lasting memorials to him within NI. One might be the Jack Lewis Memorial Collection of Chinese Coins, but there will be others. Perhaps, though, the biggest memorial will be within us. Jack connected with us all and within our hearts and within our memories are the places where he may be best honored. To Ann, we express our very deepest sympathies for we understand the grief that results from suddenly having so great a void in her life. To Jack, we say we are aware of all the things you did on our behalf over a period of thirty—nine years plus; you gave us your best, and we give you our heartfelt thanks for many, many a job well done.



#### Small, smaller...

Most authorities claim that the artistry of coinage is best shown by half—crown—size pieces; nonetheless most of us have a wide variety of coins both larger and smaller. You may know right off the top of your head which item in your collection is oldest, or rarest, or most valuable, or even largest, but can you identify your smallest piece? I collect (almost) exclusively modern, machine—struck coins, so I miss some of the excessively tiny pieces the Medieval collector knows, but I still have a few minuscule of my own. An inventory of my bronze brings to light a 1966 Turkish 1 Para, which beats out even the slightly thinner Japan 1 Rin of Meiji 17. Of course, both of these money units, the hundredth of a lira and thousandth of a *yen* respectively, have long since depreciated out of sight. In silver, I find that the Canadian 5 Cents of Edward VII dated 1902 (the only one of this group, incidentally, to retain any monetary value) is just edged out by a 10 cents of the Netherlands. Being the twenty-fifth part, rather than at the tenth, of a dollar, the Dutchman's doppeltje is only a single gram at full legal weight - and this specimen is worn so thin that the portrait and legends of Queen Wilhelmina and the date of 1904 are only just discernable. So, what's your smallest coin? (Submitted by Christopher D. Carson)



The heaviest gold coins ever minted in the world were the 1000 Mohur of Mughal emperor Jahangir which had a diameter of 20 cm and contained 383.75 troy ounces or almost 12 Kilograms of pure gold!

# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

*Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382*

The true origins of the rosary are shrouded in mystery. Legend has it that it was the Virgin Mary herself who appeared to St. Dominic (c.1170-1221) in a vision and revealed to him the 'devotional tool' now known to us as the rosary. In reality the rosary is much older than this and the legend is merely a pious fiction, dating from the fifteenth century, devised to account for the particular fondness of the Dominican Order for the use of the rosary (1). (Legend has it, for example, that St. Dominic used the rosary as an effective antidote to the "heresy and sin" of the Albigensians.) For the purposes of analyzing the designs of religious medals, prints and paintings, though, it is legend rather than fact that concerns us.

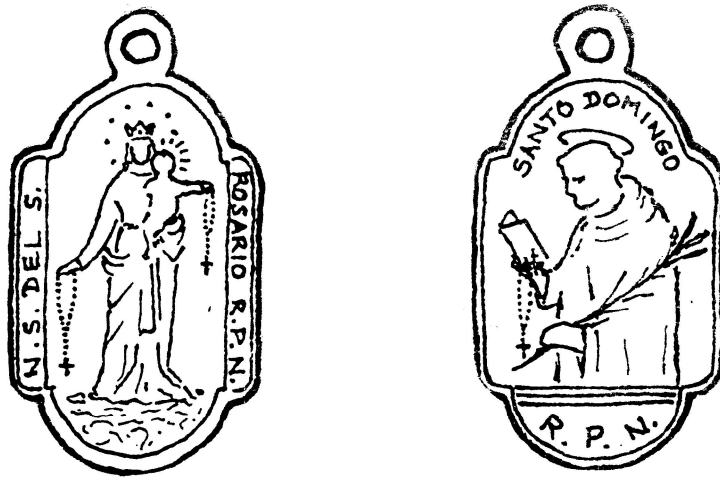


Fig. 1

The symbolic revelation of the rosary by the Virgin Mary – almost inevitably accompanied by the Infant Jesus – is depicted on the obverse of the modern Spanish aluminum medal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig.1, with the legend N.S. DEL S. ROSARIO R.P.N. (= Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse of the medal shows St. Dominic holding a book (a symbol of his learning) and a lily (a symbol of his purity) with the legend SANTO DOMINGO R.P.N. (= St. Dominic, pray for us.)



Fig. 2

The format used for Our Lady of the Rosary on the obverse of Fig.1 is, as we shall

see, a common / traditional one. But there are occasional deviations from the norm, a rather neat example of which is the modern-style French medal, in silver, shown 1½ times actual size in Fig.2. Here the Virgin (minus the Infant Jesus) is shown seated with a giant rosary hanging from her outstretched hands, the beads of the rosary following the outer edges of the medal, down to her feet. In another break with tradition, her halo is not circular but polygonal! The accompanying legend reads N.D. DV ROSAIRE P.P.NOUS (= Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse, like that of Fig.1, shows St. Dominic. He is seated, holding up the cross of his rosary in his right hand, and holding a shield marked FIDES (= Faith) in his left. The accompanying legend reads SANCTVS DOMINICVS. Note the star above the saint's head. A regular symbol of his, it relates to the legend that when he was baptized a star descended from the heavens and came to rest on his forehead (2)!



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

The Spanish prints reproduced here as Figs. 3 & 4 are of interest as background. The one in Fig.3, of course, is the equivalent of the obverse of the medal in Fig.1, save that the Virgin and Child are surrounded by fifteen miniature pictures of key stages in the life, death and resurrection of Christ that the worshipper is supposed to meditate on as he or she recites the rosary (the so-called “Mysteries” of the rosary.) The print in Fig.4 depicts the legendary vision of St. Dominic, in which he is receiving the first rosary from the Virgin and Child. Incidentally, the dog with a torch in its mouth, in the lower right hand corner of the print, is another regular symbol of St. Dominic, being a visual pun on the word “Dominican”, seen as Domini Canis = Dog of the Lord. It was this pun which seems to have inspired a curious legend that when Dominic’s mother was carrying him in her womb, she had a dream in which she gave birth to a black and white dog carrying a torch in its mouth. This was interpreted as a sign that her child was destined to become a great preacher: the dog would see off the wolves (heretics) and protect the sheep (the faithful), his black and white colour

representing the colours of the future Dominican habit (white tunic & scapular; black cloak.) The torch, it was said by some, symbolised the Light of Truth which the child would bring into the world, though to others it signified that he would set the world on fire for Christ (3). In art, probably the most famous painting of the type of Fig.4 is that by Domenichino in the Pinacoteca Nazionale at Bologna (though the spectators at the base of the painting arguably push it into the broader category to be mentioned below.)

That the rosary was a favoured 'tool' of the Dominicans generally led to some imaginative extensions of the scene depicted in Fig.4, other Dominican saints being included alongside St. Dominic. Far and away the commonest of these is typified by the print shown in Fig.5 (again Spanish – I bought up a supply of these in Spain a few years ago!) which depicts St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) receiving the rosary from the Virgin, alongside St. Dominic who is receiving it from the Infant Jesus. A rather grander version of the same scene is to be found in Sassoferrato's famous painting in Santa Sabina's Church in Rome.



Fig. 5

St. Catherine of Siena, who experienced visions from early childhood and consecrated her virginity to Christ at the age of seven (an age when she can hardly have known what virginity was!), joined the Dominican Tertiaries at the age of sixteen. In 1366 she claimed that Christ married her in a vision, the Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul, St. Dominic and the prophet David (but not, apparently, St. Joseph, the father of the groom!) being present at the ceremony. Christ even slipped a gold ring on her finger to seal the espousal, but it turned out to be invisible to everyone except her, which didn't do her reputation with the skeptics much good. Skeptical eyebrows were raised even further when she claimed that, on another occasion, Christ had appeared to her, removed her heart through her left side, and replaced it with his own! As if that weren't enough, in 1375 she claimed to receive

the stigmata, though, as with her wedding ring, these wounds of the crucifixion were invisible to all but her. (It is said, though, that the wounds did become visible to all after her death, but I'm afraid I can't vouch for that.) St. Catherine never did things by halves, then (4), as a result of which her saintly reputation led to her being regarded by many as the "leading lady" of the Dominican Order – hence her presence on the print of Fig.5 and on the obverse of the modern aluminium medal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig.6. This medal, which appears to copy the painting by Sassoferrato, mentioned earlier, bears the legend REGINA SACRATISSIMI ROSARII, ORA P. NOBIS (= Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse of this medal, like those of Figs.1 & 2, depicts St. Dominic.

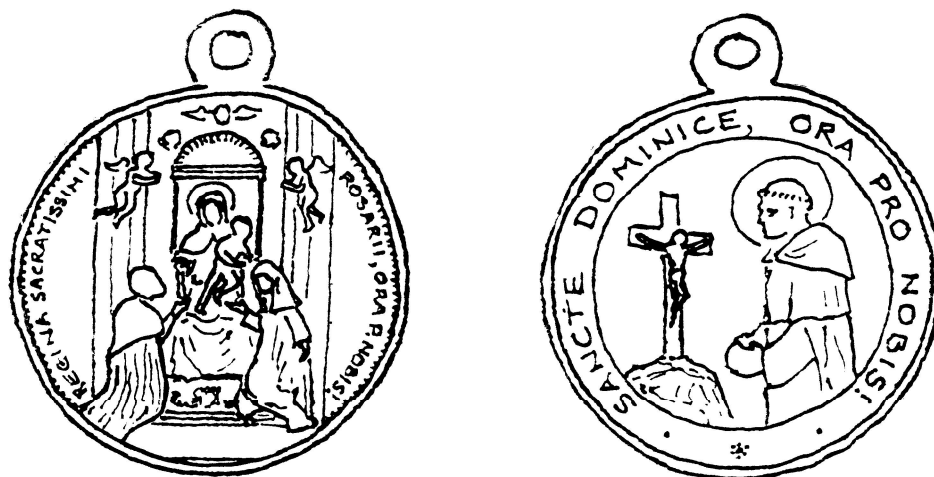


Fig. 6

A French medal in my collection – in gilded bronze and of 19<sup>th</sup> century date – also has an obverse like Figs. 5 & 6, with legend REINE DU TRES SAINT ROSAIRE / PRIEZ P.N. (= Queen of the Very Holy Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse bears a standard, half-length figure of Christ revealing his Sacred Heart, with no legend.

The Spanish aluminium medal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig.7 has an obverse depicting an interesting variation on the foregoing theme. It shows the Virgin presenting St. Dominic with the rosary on the right and the Infant Jesus placing a crown of thorns on the head of St. Catherine on the left. This last detail relates to yet another of St. Catherine's visions in which Christ appeared to her and offered her a choice of two crowns – one of gold, the other of thorns. Catherine being Catherine, she naturally chose the latter and eagerly forced it onto her head, causing herself excruciating pain. This is why St. Catherine is often depicted in art (eg in the painting by Sassoferrato mentioned above), as she is on this medal, wearing a crown of thorns (5). The obverse legend of Fig.7 reads REINA DEL SANTISIMO ROSARIO / R.P.N. (= Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse of the medal relates to St. Thomas Aquinas (STO TOMAS DE AQUINO) being attended to by "the Angelic Militia" (MILICIA ANGELICA). St. Thomas joined the Dominican Order in about 1244, much against the wishes of his family, who wanted him to join the Benedictines (6a). The reverse of this medal, then, continues the Dominican theme of the obverse. As to the "Angelic Militia", this refers to an episode in which Thomas's family sought to divert him from the Dominicans – and religion altogether,

it would seem! - by sending a naked girl into his room. The plan didn't work, for Thomas simply grabbed a burning brand from the fire and chased her out again – the burning brand can be seen on the medal, on the floor just in front of the saint. It is said that having seen off the girl, two angels appeared and girdled his loins in a cord which acted as a sort of male-chastity belt. Its installation caused him intense pain, but for the rest of his life, it is said, he never felt a lustful urge (6b). This girdling of St. Thomas's loins by the angelic lust-police is clearly the scene depicted on the medal. The medal probably relates to an organization known as the Confraternity of the Cord of St. Thomas Aquinas, a popular name for which was "the Angelic Militia". Its aim was the protection of youth from the snares of lust through the intercession of the saint (7).



Fig. 7

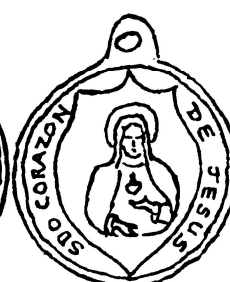
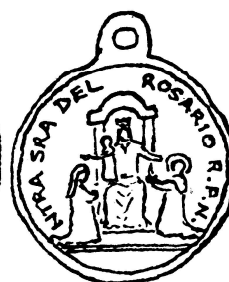


Fig. 8

Another Spanish aluminium medal, again shown 1½ times actual size, in Fig.8, has an obverse similar to that of Fig.7 (ie with St. Catherine receiving a crown of thorns rather than a rosary), but with the legend NTRA SRA DEL ROSARIO R.P.N. (= Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.) The reverse of the medal is a standard image of Christ revealing his Sacred Heart, with legend SDO CORAZON DE JESUS (= Sacred Heart of Jesus.)

Medals which are closely allied to the foregoing, and which I have dealt with elsewhere (8), are those of Our Lady of Pompeii. Readers may recall that the miraculous painting on these medals is much as in Fig.5 (9) save that St. Catherine of Siena was produced by re-painting a not-very-satisfactory original image of St. Rose of Lima (another Dominican Tertiary, who modeled her life on St. Catherine.) As stated earlier, the basic vision of St. Dominic, depicted as in Fig.4, can have various Dominican saints added, not just St. Catherine (or St. Rose!) In art, for example, St. Peter Martyr can sometimes feature alongside St. Dominic; and in at least one work of this type, St. Thomas Aquinas features alongside St. Dominic and St. Catherine. The most extraordinary example I know of is the painting above the main altar in the chapel of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington D.C., where St. Dominic receives the rosary from the Virgin with no less than fifty two Dominican saints, blessed and venerables looking on! (10)

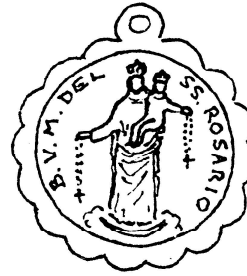




Fig. 9



Fig. 10



We should remember, though, that the rosary is not the sole preserve of the Dominican Order, and medals like that of Fig.1 can be found on which the Virgin of the Rosary is paired with other (non-Dominican) saints. Thus, for example, the bronze Spanish medal pictured actual size in Fig.9 pairs her with St. Francis of Assisi, whilst the bronze Italian medal pictured actual size in Fig.10 pairs her with St. Joseph. Both these medals are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and both, as can be seen, picture the Virgin in the ‘standard’ format of Figs.1 & 3. The Virgin appears in the same format again on another 19<sup>th</sup> century Spanish medal in bronze (not illustrated) which has St. Roch (San Roque) on the reverse.

Finally, Our Lady of the Rosary has been given an added dimension through the repeated appearance of the rosary in modern Marian apparitions, and most particularly those at Fatima. But that, as they say, is another story (11).

#### Notes.

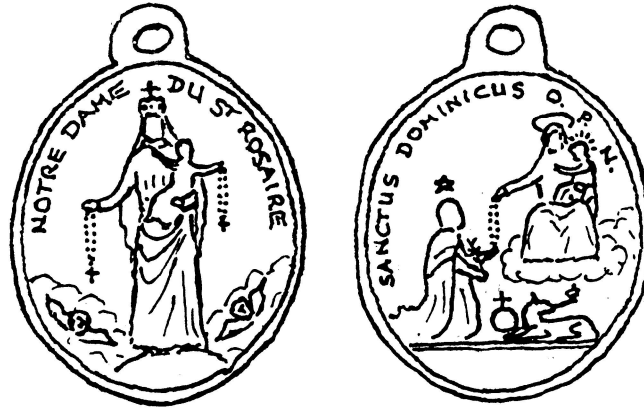
1. See, for example, C.G. Herbermann et al., *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (1907-1914), article “Rosary” in vol.13, p.184-189; also Michael Walsh, *A Dictionary of Devotions* (1993), article “Rosary” (p.219-223).
2. See, for example, Anna Jameson, *Legends of the Monastic Orders as Represented in the Fine Arts* (1891), p.360 and the woodcut on p.359; E.A.Greene, *Saints and their Symbols* (1909), p.69; J. Speake, *The Dent Dictionary of Symbols in Christian Art* (1994), entries “Star” (p.132) & “St. Dominic” (p.44); G. Ferguson, *Signs and Symbols in Christian Art* (1961), entries “Star” (p.45) & “St. Dominic” (p.115).
3. See, for example, the sources cited in note 2, as follows: Jameson, p.359-360, with the account of Simone Memmi’s fresco of “The Church Militant” on p.356, and the woodcuts on p.233 & p.365; Greene, p.69; Speake, entries “Dog” (p.43) and “St. Dominic” (p.44); Ferguson, entries “Dog” (p.15) & “St. Dominic” (p.115).
4. The main events of St. Catherine’s life can be found in any encyclopedia of saints, though some do seem to ignore or play down the various visions,

perhaps because in these “enlightened times” such visions only raise the eyebrows of the skeptical (as indeed they did in St. Catherine’s own lifetime) and distract attention from the more important, if relatively mundane, aspects of her saintly career. Of course, it is precisely these visions which most inspire the artist or medalist! Be that as it may, details of the visions can be found in Joan Carroll Cruz, *Mysteries, Marvels, Miracles in the Lives of the Saints* (1997), p.73-4 (the Exchange of Hearts); p.148-9 (the Mystic Marriage); & p.232-3 (the Stigmata). Mrs. Cruz has no fear of skeptical eyebrows.

5. For the vision, see F.C. Husenbeth, *Butler’s Lives of the Saints* (1928), vol.2, p.67; Frances Parkinson Keyes, *Three Ways of Love* (1964), p.177; and Anna Jameson, op.cit. p.387. For Catherine’s crown of thorns in art, see, for example, Ferguson, op. cit. p.38 (“Thorn”) & p.112 (“St. Catherine of Siena”).
6. See “A Very Monkish Medal”, *NI Bulletin*, June 2001: a) p.171; b) p.172. Note that the reverse of the Candelaria medal pictured in “More on ROMA Medals” in *NI Bulletin*, July 2002, p.200 (Fig.5) also depicts the Angelic Militia in action.
7. See *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, article “Sodality”, in vol.14, p.124, plus the additional detail given in the article “Cord, Confraternities of the” in vol.4, p.358.
8. See “Our Lady of Pompeii”, *NI Bulletin*, January 2002, p.26-9. Incidentally, the medal illustrated in the addendum to that article (p.29) appears to have used some other (unidentified) picture of Our Lady of the Rosary rather than the one at Pompeii itself. Either that, or the medalist has made up his own version of the scene.
9. The print in Fig.5 may actually be based on the painting “Our Lady of Pompeii”. Compare the photos of the Pompeii painting in H.M.Gillett, *Famous Shrines of Our Lady* (1952), vol.1, facing p.188, and Joan Carroll Cruz, *Miraculous Images of Our Lady* (1993), p.246.
10. See the web-site of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph at: [www.op-stjoseph.org/Students/toura003.htm](http://www.op-stjoseph.org/Students/toura003.htm) .
11. See “Of Marian Apparitions” in *NI Bulletin* January 2003; also “Lourdes and Fatima Revisited” in *NI Bulletin* October 2003, Fig.7 of the last article is of particular rosary interest.

### **Addendum**

The 19<sup>th</sup> century French medal in (formerly silvered) bronze shown here 1½ times actual size turned up after this article had been prepared for publication. It is a

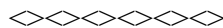


prime example of medallionic rosary lore, the obverse being a standard image of Our Lady of the Rosary (NOTRE DAME DU ST. ROSAIRE), of the type illustrated in Figs. 1, 3, 9 & 10 above. Its reverse shows St. Dominic receiving the rosary from the Virgin, much as in the print of Fig. 4. He holds a lily (cf. the reverse of Fig. 1) and his characteristic star symbol appears over his head (cf. the reverse of Fig. 2). Finally, the dog with the torch appears to the lower right, and next to it a globe surmounted by a cross, indicating the interpretation of his mother's dream in terms of the saint setting the world alight for Christ. The accompanying legend reads SANCTUS DOMINICUS O.P.N. (= St. Dominic pray for us).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Charlemagne in Canada?

When Charles, King of the Franks, ascended to the dignity of Emperor of the Romans in AD 800 (thus becoming de jure ruler of Europe), he set about reforming the system of weights and measures which had become disordered in the centuries following the fall of Rome. Since money was considered a division of metrology in those days, these efforts led to the introduction of a new system of currency, which continued in use (at least nominally) until 1970. He divided the pound into 240 pennyweights, which could be organized alternately as twelve ounces of twenty pennyweight each, or twenty shillings of 12. This latter scheme was adopted, with the pennyweight of pure silver as the coined unit, as money of account across the Western world. The shilling was never coined, of course, until it had depreciated significantly (British shillings after the end of the Bank Restriction were struck 66 to the pound of standard silver), but by a strange coincidence, the Canadian standard silver dollar contained exactly 0.6 Troy ounce, or 12dwt., of pure silver.



In 625 B.C., metal coins were introduced in Greece. They replaced grain - usually barley - as the medium of exchange. Stamped with a likeness of an ear of wheat, the new coins were lighter and easier to transport than grain, and did not get moldy.

## THE USE OF BANK NOTES AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PROPAGANDA - PART II

**John E. Sandrock**

### **Other Propaganda Notes of the European Theater**

British and American warfare psychologists working for the Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office had long been working on a scheme to forge regular German currency and drop it over the Fatherland. When presented to Parliament, this plan was vetoed for fear of reprisal. The War Cabinet then issued a directive to the psychological warfare offices stating that on no account were German banknotes to be counterfeited. The Germans had no such compunctions however. They succeeded in producing near perfect British pound note forgeries produced under 'Operation Bernhard', but could not print sufficient quantities soon enough. By the time they were ready the Luftwaffe had lost control over British skies and could no longer complete their delivery. The War Cabinet did not, however, restrict the printing of bogus bills of other types, which would be useful in delivering propaganda aimed at demoralizing the German armed forces.

Such notes were readily available in the form of *Behelfszahlungsmittel*, German Auxiliary Payment Certificates, which had been in circulation since August 1942. These notes were a military currency used by German soldiers, airmen and sailors to buy articles at their canteens. The Auxiliary Payment Certificates had a dual value - one for soldiers and one for civilians. For military personnel the note was valued at ten times its face value. Thus a 1 Reichsmark note was worth 10 Reichsmarks but the same note in the hands of a civilian would only bring 1 mark. This series of notes had blank backs, which made them ideal for the addition of propaganda messages. The warfare psychologists chose the 50 Reichspfennig denomination for their purposes.

The paper used in the manufacture of these notes was painstakingly copied even down to reproducing the watermark. After the bogus obverse had been printed, various propaganda messages were added to the reverse side. At least four such messages were used. Three contain four lines of poetry and one seventeen lines of propaganda. One example is cited here:

"50 pfennig heiss' ich -	"50 pfennigs is my name -
Um 4.50 bescheiss' ich	I'll cheat everyone of
Jedermann, der denkt,	4.5 mark who thinks Hitler
Dass Hitler ihm was schenkt. "	gives him something"

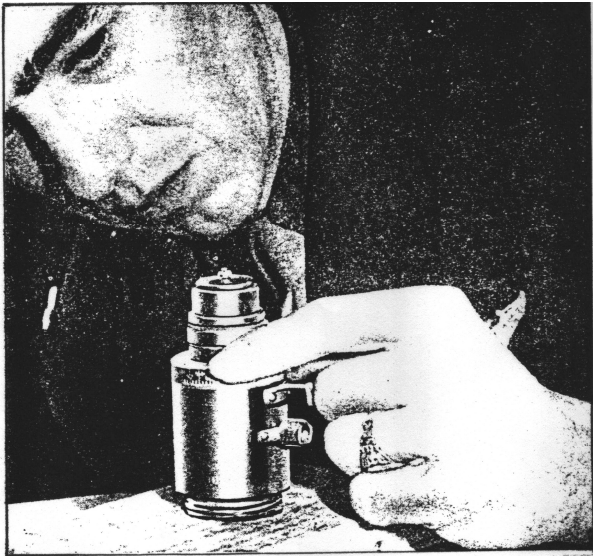
The notes were printed in England by a private firm under the utmost secrecy. When ready for distribution they were taken to a newspaper office adjacent to an airfield. This office was already under contract to produce newspapers and leaflets to be

dropped over Germany. Here the bogus *Behelfszahlungsmittel* were packed into airdrop containers together with the other propaganda items. After the war aircrews began to tell of their experiences. The routine was to have these containers delivered to the pilot just before takeoff on a bombing run. Instructions accompanying the bag instructed the pilot as to which city was the target of the propaganda airdrop.

When dropping propaganda leaflets on the enemy, they must be scattered to be effective. Several scattering devices were employed to achieve this. The most effective proved to be the barometric fuse, which was attached to a canister being jettisoned from the aircraft. Upon reaching a preset pressure during freefall, it would open the canister allowing the individual notes to scatter to the four winds. Other scattering devices included slip strings, which unwrapped packages in midair and a belly tank attached to the fuselage of the aircraft, which could release leaflets and notes in a continuous stream at a controlled speed.

Many additional propaganda notes are known to have been used in the European theater of operations. Some examples include:

1. Nazi Secret Service use of American dollar bill replicas dropped over Paris in October 1943 to spread anti-Jewish propaganda.
2. German copies of the newly released “Emis en France” 5 franc invasion money for use in 1944 by American forces in France. These notes carried a message directed at the civilian population, which described the money as Jewish and worthless.
3. German facsimiles of American 1, 2 and 10 dollar bills dropped over Sicily and Italy in 1944 urging the Italians to resist in the name of Fascism.
4. German made copies of 1929 pre-war Yugoslavian 100 dinar bank notes bearing a Wehrmacht seal over the watermark area. These notes offered an amnesty to all partisan soldiers deserting to the German army.
5. A similar “Deserters Pass” airdropped over Yugoslavia in 1943. It takes the form of an American 10 dollar bill and reads in German, Slovenian and Cyrillic “Don’t shoot! - take this man to the nearest Command Post and treat him well”
6. A German made copy of the Slovenian 10 lir partisan note, dropped over Slovenia by the Luftwaffe during 1944. The reverse propaganda message reads: *Ita denar je prav taka nicla, kakor obljuje iz Moskve in Londona* (This bill is worth nothing - just as the promises of Moscow and London).



To be effective propaganda leaflets must spread out when dropped from the air. One such scattering device, which was used to open canisters in mid air, was the barometric fuse shown here.

Bank notes could be packed either in bomb canisters or boxes. When airdropped over enemy territory a Billy Mitchell B-25 bomber could carry seventeen such canisters, each containing 40,000 such notes.

## Polish Army Overprints of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising

As the Soviet army overran Eastern Europe and approached Warsaw, it called upon the Polish Home Army to rise and fight beside them. With the Red Army nearing the outskirts of Warsaw in August 1944, the insurrection began. The home army known as the Polska Armija Krajowa, or simply "AK", was loyal to the London based Polish Government in Exile, which in turn was backed by Great Britain. Supplied with Allied arms, the AK rose up and vigorously attacked the German armed forces within Warsaw in an effort to assist the advancing Soviets.

The currency in use in Poland at the time was that of the German controlled Bank Emisyjny w Polsce (the Polish Emission Bank) one of several German banks set up to administer the currency of occupied countries. These notes consisted of Emission Bank notes of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 zloty denomination from the 1940 emission and 1, 2, 5, 50 and 100 zloty from the 1941 issue. The "Gott Strafe England" overprint was applied only to the ½, 1 and 2 notes of the Polish State Loan Bank, which had previously been issued in 1917. It is possible that this is the work of a private individual.

Once the Warsaw revolt was under way, Poles of the different army units commenced overprinting circulating Polish Emission Bank notes with various propaganda slogans. I have seen four different overprints from this period. The rubber hand stamps used to apply the slogans to the bank notes were administered to whatever notes happened to be at hand, the denomination having no bearing on the propaganda message being sent. As a consequence, all overprints do not appear on every Emission Bank denomination.

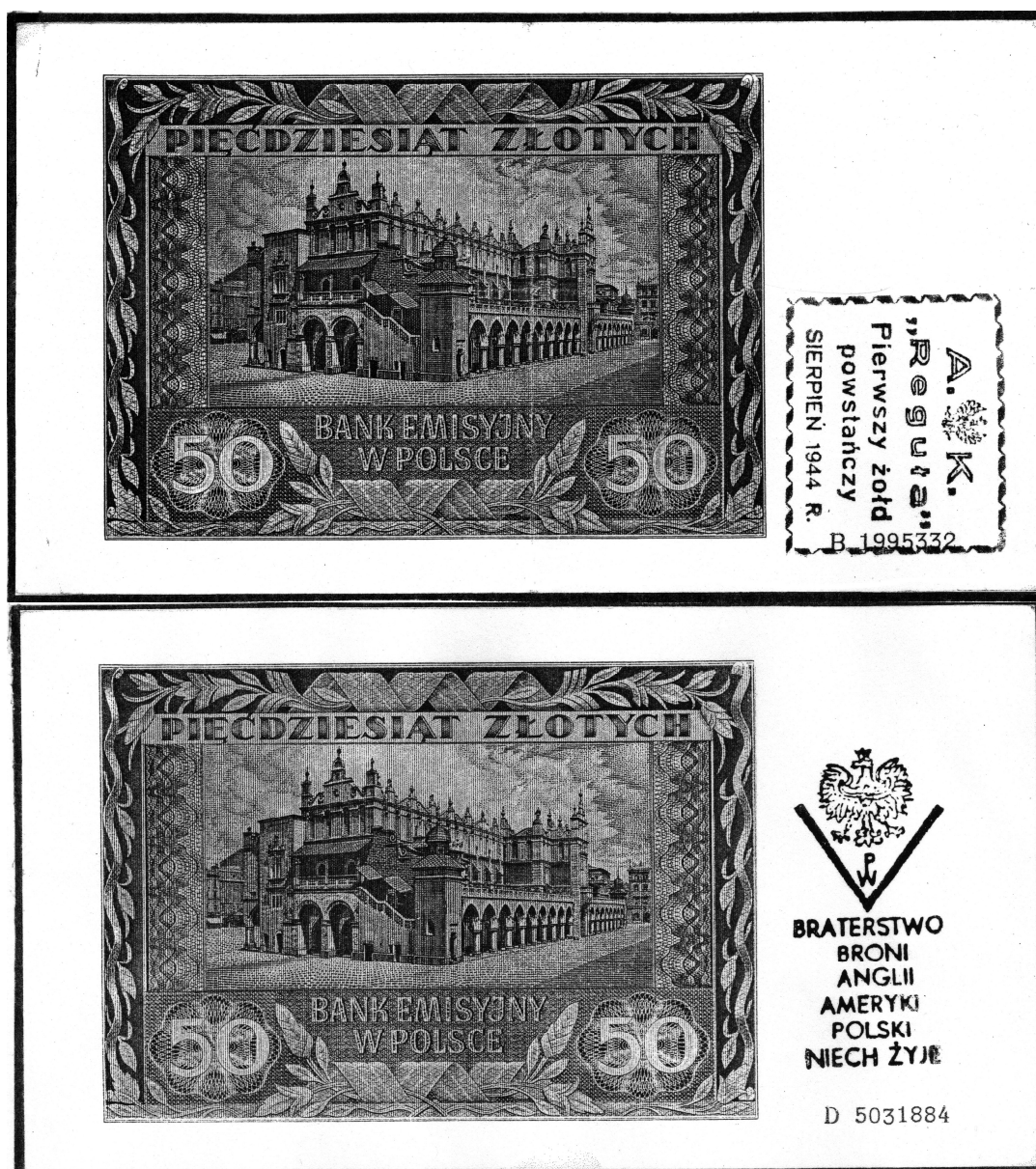
There are a total of eight Warsaw uprising overprints. The four most frequently encountered are:

1. The Polish eagle within a chevron, below which the following text appears: *Braterstwo broni Anglii Ameryki Polski Niech Zyje* (Long live the Anglo-American-Polish brotherhood in arms).
2. The Polish eagle within a circle, below which appears the following text: *Okreg Warszawski Dowodztwo Zgrup. IV* (Group IV Command, Warsaw District)
3. A square with a small eagle flanked by the initials "A.K." with text below which reads: *"Regula" Pierwszy zold powstanczy, Sierpien 1944 R.* (Polish Army — the first pay in the uprising, August 1944). Note: This somewhat confusing translation refers to the first occurrence in which overprinted Emission Bank notes were used to pay "Regular" troops during the uprising.
4. A double circle. Within the inner circle is a scaffold with a swastika hanging from it. The outer circle, in German, reads *Deutscheland liegt an alien fronten* (Germany is losing on an fronts).



August 1944 saw Russian troops overrunning Eastern Europe. As the Soviets approached Warsaw they asked the Polish Home Army to rise up and assist them in fighting the Germans. Suddenly, without explanation, the Soviets withdrew their army and abandoned the Poles to their fate. Sixty days later Warsaw lay in ruins. During the uprising various Polish army units hand-stamped the German occupation Polish Emission Bank notes then in circulation with various propaganda messages. This 50 zloty note bears the hand- stamp reading OKREG WARSZAWSKI DOWODZTWO ZGRUP. IV (Group IV Command, Warsaw District).





Warsaw Uprising overprints were placed on whatever notes were at hand. Consequently the various propaganda messages can be found on most denominations. Two additional stamps appearing on the 50 zloty note are shown here. The one at the bottom reads: "Long Live the Anglo-American-Polish Brotherhood-in arms".

The Polish catalog *Katalog Nadruków Okolicznościowych na Banknotach* lists additional overprints which I have not seen and do not have translations for, as follows:

5. *Polski Wojskowy/Oboz Kobiet*
6. *Polska Walczy/ I Zwycieza*
7. *Ghetto Walczy*
8. *Gott Strafe England*

Upon reaching Warsaw's city limits the Russian advance suddenly came to a halt without warning. No further assistance to the Poles was forthcoming from the Soviets. In an effort to keep the A.K. in the field the Royal Air Force and American air units organized an aerial supply line; however this assistance proved inadequate to save the situation. The A.K. capitulated after sixty days of intense fighting, leaving Warsaw in ruins.



Front and back of the Polish Emission Bank 100 zloty note. The reverse of the note carries a hand-stamp depicting a scaffold and swastika device which bears the caption: "Germany is Losing on all Fronts". After four years of ghetto occupation this propaganda message must have lifted the spirits of all Warsaw citizens.

After the war was over the explanation for the withdrawal of Soviet support at the gates of Warsaw and the betrayal of the Poles was revealed. Stalin realized that further support of the Polish Home Army would run counter to his own political agenda. With the end of the war approaching, Stalin was determined to keep Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe within the Soviet sphere of influence. Stalin saw the British backed A.K. and the Warsaw uprising as a threat to his future. The Soviet dictator had other plans for post war Poland and simply abandoned the A.K. and the Polish Government in Exile to their fate. Had he been confronted with a victorious A.K., Stalin would have had great difficulty imposing his own puppet government upon Poland once the war was over.

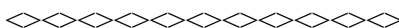
To be continued

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## **DATES ON COINS**

By Joel Anderson ([www.joelscoins.com](http://www.joelscoins.com))

Though most collectors take dates on coins for granted, dates on coins did not come into wide-spread use in Europe until the 16th century. Prior to that time most rulers thought it sufficient to put their name on the coin, and maybe a mark for the mint or person who made it. Oriental coins generally were not dated until the 19th or 20th century. However some mints made minor differences in the style of the characters on Cash coins, which allowed the coins to be dated to the exact year they were made even though they did not carry a visible date. Today, although most oriental coins are dated, they are not always dated with an AD date. Both Japan and Taiwan date their coins by the number of years the emperor or government has been in power. Thailand coins are dated using the Buddhist Era, but the same date may be struck for many years. In the Middle East dating of coins goes back to ancient times, though coins were often dated by the years that the king was in power. After the rise of Islam coins began to be dated based on the number of years since Mohammed fled to Medina in 622AD (AH date). However, because the Islamic calendar is a lunar rather than a solar calendar, the year is about 3% shorter. Numerous other calendars have been used in various areas. A set of coins using different dating systems can form a fascinating collection. (Submitted by Christopher D. Carson)



## **IDENTIFYING INDIA NATIVE STATES THE FIRST IN A SERIES**

Bahawalpur, which is now part of Pakistan, had some of the most distinctive and easily identifiable copper Paisas of any of the native states of India. In both the 19th and 20th centuries the Paisas were roughly square in shape rather than round. In addition, at or near the top center of the obverse, appear the telltale Star and Crescent of this Moslem state. Although we have seen some specimens where the strike was so far off from center that the Star does not appear, generally the Crescent, or at least part of it, will show.

# The MacGregor Laird Niger Trading Stations Token

Donald S. Yarab, NI# LM129, Cleveland, Ohio



MacGregor Laird (1808-1861) was a Scottish merchant, shipbuilder, and explorer born at Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland, who left a small numismatic legacy in the form of an oddly denominated trading token. His story begins in 1831, when he formed a company for the commercial development of the Niger regions in Africa. The impetus for the venture was the initial exploration of the Niger by Richard and John Lander earlier that year.

In 1832, Laird's newly formed company sent two small ships to the Niger. One of the ships was the *Alburkah*, a paddle-wheel steamer of 55 tons designed by Laird himself. It has the distinction of being the first iron vessel to make an ocean voyage. Laird went with the expedition, which was led by Richard Lander. It numbered forty-eight Europeans, of whom all but nine died from fever or, in the case of Lander, from wounds. During this expedition, Laird went 500 miles up the Niger to the confluence of the Benue (then called the Shary or Tshadda), which he was the first white man to ascend. Though the exploration was successful, the expedition itself returned to Liverpool as a commercial failure in 1834. However, invaluable experience and knowledge had been gained that would be put to good use in the future. In 1837, Laird published his travels as a *Narrative of an Expedition into the Interior of Africa by the River Niger*.

Laird never returned to Africa after this expedition but, anxious to supplant the African slave trade, he devoted himself to the development of legitimate trade with West Africa. To this end, in 1853 he won the contract for operating monthly mail boats in the region, mostly because of his emphasis on providing passage for small traders.

In 1854, on the same basis, Laird won a subsidy from the British government for the "Niger Expedition." The British Consul in Fernando Po was supposed to lead the expedition but, by the time the steamer *Pleiad* arrived there to begin the voyage, the consul had died. Accordingly, the next most senior official, the famed W.B. Baike

took charge. In Baikie's own words: "I resolved to continue the expedition, as I considered that, the preparations being so far advanced, and results of no little importance being expected, it would be wrong not to make the attempt." During the exploration of the Niger and its tributaries that followed, Baikie managed to navigate and record scientific data along 700 miles of river. Indeed, the *Pleiad* had gone 250 miles further along the Benue than others had before ventured. The ship reached the mouth of the Niger exactly 16 weeks after it had set out and, aided by the new drug quinine, not a single man aboard had died of malaria or some other fever, a remarkable feat for the era.

Commenting on the success of the 1854 expedition, Baikie said: "We have discovered a navigable river, an available highway, conducting us into the very heart of a large continent. We have found these regions to be highly favored by nature, teeming with animal life, and with fertile soils abounding in valuable vegetable products. We have met on friendly terms with numerous tribes, all endowed by nature with what I might term the 'commercial faculty,' ready and anxious to trade with us." When Baikie returned to Britain, he spent the next year writing up his expedition notes, which he published in 1856 as a *Narrative of an Exploring Voyage up the Rivers Kwo'ra and Bi'nue (commonly known as the Niger and Tsadda)*. This work is still available to the interested reader as it was republished in 1970.

In 1857, Laird negotiated for ships to go annually to the Niger for five years. W. B. Baikie again led an expedition of exploration up the Niger for Laird in 1857, determined to establish trading posts along the way. Making use of his previous contacts, he was warmly received by the local kings and tribal chiefs. He traveled in a small steamer called *Dayspring*, accompanied by a second ship – the *George* – which remained at the confluence of the river to set up a trading post. As the *Dayspring* proceeded further up the Niger, it ran aground at the town of Jebba. For the next year, Baikie and his crew were stranded near Jebba without provisions. It was not until a colleague managed to travel overland to Lagos, and then on to Sierra Leone, that the party was eventually rescued by the ship *Sunbeam*.

Many of those involved in the Jebba incident accepted Baikie's invitation to try to establish a British Consular Agency at the town of Rabbah. However, he encountered opposition to this scheme from the locals and had to change his plans. He began building a trading post at the present day town of Lokoja, where the Niger and Benue converge. Work on post began in January 1860 and it is estimated that more than 2,000 traders visited the settlement within its first three years. In Baikie's words: "Already traders come to us from Kabbi, Kano, and other parts of Hausa; and we hope ere long to see regular caravans with ivory and other produce." Various other stations were also founded on the Niger as a result of these expeditions, and though British government support was withdrawn shortly after the death of Laird in London on January 9, 1861, British traders continued to frequent the river in active commerce.

It is from these trading stations that Laird left the small numismatic legacy referenced earlier. It is a thin 22-mm plain edge copper token catalogued in Krause's *Standard Catalog of World Coins 1801-1900* (2nd ed.) under Nigeria as KM-Tn2. Krause notes that although this token has been "[v]ariously attributed to Guinea, Gold Coast,

Sierra Leone, and West Africa, this token was intended to circulate at that the MacGregor Laird trading posts located along the Niger and Benue rivers.” Its obverse features a three masted schooner with the Arabic date 1274 below. Its reverse has the name LAIRD above a scrolled motto, SPERO IMLIOA, with the denominations “1/8 Penny” and “1/400 Dollar” under the scroll. Below the two denominations is the date 1858.

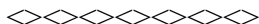
The *Guidebook & Catalogue of British Commonwealth Coins* (3rd ed.), by Jerome Remick, describes two distinctive die varieties for the token. On one, all the lettering, the date, and the ship are very large -- so large, in fact, that the Arabic date just about touches the water under the boat and the dots on the rim of the coin. On the other variety, pictured with this article, the lettering, date, and schooner are much smaller. Remick notes that the two die varieties are so different that they almost constitute two separate type coins instead of die varieties. Krause notes that there are three die varieties but, unfortunately, does not offer any description of them. However, the photograph in Krause is strikingly different from the specimen photographed here in that the Krause specimen has sails that are much fuller and more forward, among other things. Finally, Remick states that “proofs” exist while Krause does not indicate such. In either event, the token is very scarce and rarely encountered.

As a final aside, it should be noted that Laird's interests were not wholly African. In 1838, one of his company's ships, the *Sirius*, was the first to cross the Atlantic from Europe entirely under steam. The captain of this historic voyage was forced to use spars and furniture to keep the ship going under steam rather than switch to sail. Most certainly numismatic commemoratives of this event are to be found.

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## MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Christopher D. Carson, 3808 Lawndale, Ft. Worth TX 76133: - INFORMATION WANTED, historical, numismatic, and statistical, concerning Japanese private and colonial banks of issue in the period from the Meiji Restoration to the end of the Second World War. English strongly preferred, will make shift to read Japanese and Traditional Chinese if necessary. Translations appreciated, but please include source material.



John Vandigriff (jhnvan@comcast.net) would like to received information and pictures (scans) of the Zodiac coins of Jahangir of India. In researching these coins, I have found information that only 3 complete sets of the coins exist: The British Museum, The Hermitage in St. Petersburg, and a Museum in Berlin. I am trying to assemble a complete list of the gold and silver coins (dates of issue and mints), and pictures of each. I have a (K150.9) Cancer coin, Agra mint date 1031/17 (١٠٣١ / ١٧ ) This not listed in Krause. I have other coins that differ from the ones in Krause.